



claim upon which relief could be granted. [Doc. 12]. Plaintiff then moved the Court under Rule 59(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to alter or amend its judgment dismissing Plaintiff's complaint. [Docs. 14, 16]. The Court denied Plaintiff's Rule 59 motion. [Doc. 18]. Plaintiff appealed the denial of the motion to alter or amend judgment to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. [Doc. 19].

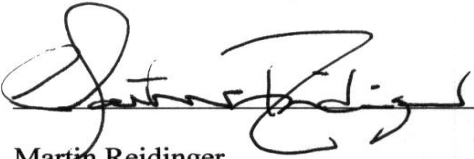
Plaintiff now moves the Court for the return of his \$350.00 filing fee "because the funds were never used because Plaintiff[s] 1983 claim here [was] dismissed...." [Doc. 22]. In the alternative, Plaintiff requests that the funds be forwarded to pay his appellate filing fee. [Id.].

Plaintiff's motion will be denied. A filing fee is exactly that – a fee for filing a complaint. Paying the filing fee (or being allowed to proceed without the prepayment of the filing fee) does not guarantee any particular result. It is merely required when a civil complaint is filed in this Court. See LCvR 3.1. After Plaintiff's fee was received, the Court conducted its initial review and dismissed Plaintiff's complaint. Local Rule 3.1(e) allows for the refund of fees only when payment was made in error or "at the direction of the Court." LCvR 3.1(e)(2). The Court declines to direct that Plaintiff's filing fee be returned under the circumstances here.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Plaintiff's motion for return of filing fee [Doc. 22] is **DENIED**.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Signed: April 29, 2020

  
Martin Reidinger  
United States District Judge

